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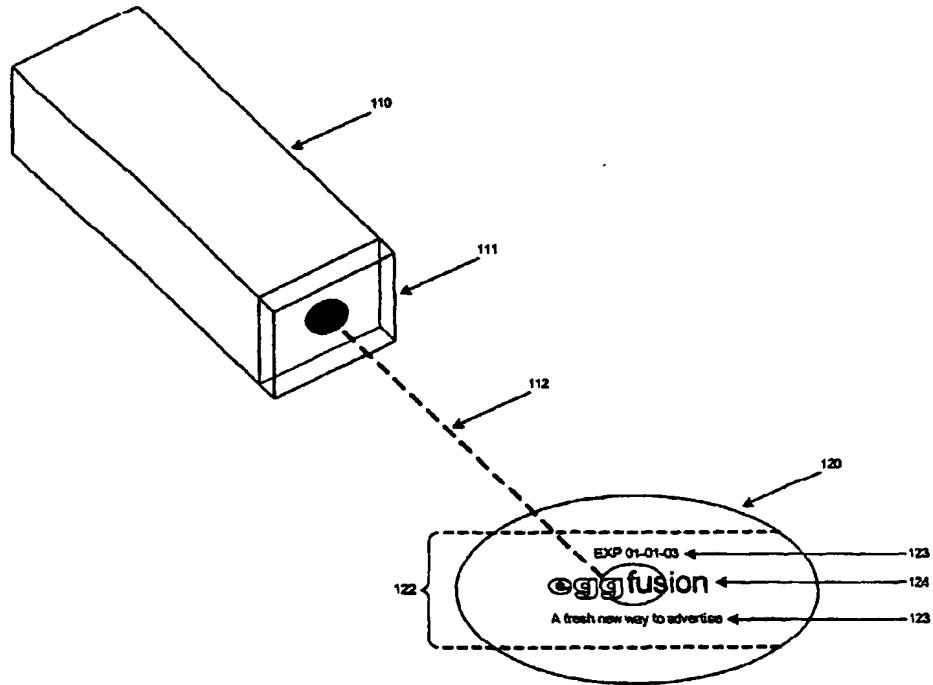
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR LASER MARKING OF EGGS



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(57) Abstract: An egg (120) is provided with an advertisement and a freshness date upon the egg. The advertisement and freshness date may be applied to the egg with radiant energy (112). The egg may move through an egg-handling machine through a region where the radiant energy may be applied to the egg. The radiant energy (112) discolors the egg, thereby creating text (123) and graphics (124), which form the advertisement and freshness date.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : B41F 17/30; B41J 3/407; A01K 43/10
US CL : 347/225; 119/50.7; 101/35

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 347/225, 224, 262, 264, 110; 119/50.7, 45.2; 101/35, 41; 346/107.1, 107.6

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST text search--search terms: laser, print, mark, stamp, coding, egg, eggshell, shell, radiation, etc.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2000-168157 (MITSUO et al.) 20 June 2000 (20.06.2000), see English language abstract, Figures 1-4 and attached partial English language translation.	1-14 and 16-21
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Y		15 and 22-24
A	JP 2001-136859 (IWASA) 22 May 2001 (22.05.2001), see English language abstract.	1-24
A	DE 101 09 109 A1 (BAUMEISTER) 18 October 2001 (18.10.2001), see English language abstract.	1-24
A	DE 43 22 252 A1 (GARTZEN et al.) 19 January 1995 (19.01.1995), see English language abstract.	1-24

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See patent family annex.

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